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NEWS

League of Women Voters debates kick off Thursday

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER

March 6, 2024 . 8:00 AM — 2 min read

The League of Women Voters is hosting debates on March 7 and 14 ahead of the March 26 general town election. FILE PHOTO

The Winchester League of Women Voters is hosting two candidate forums in the Jenks Center, 109 Skillings Road, ahead of the March 26 ele

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“The debates will give candidates a chance to outline their priorities if elected and answer voter questions,” said League member Marie Lee, the debate organizer.

The forums will be livestreamed by WinCAM Community Media Center.

On March 7, there will be an informal meet-and-greet opportunity with Town Meeting candidates divided by precinct from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

According to the Town Clerk’s office, in Precincts 1-8, there are elections for a total of 64 Town Meeting members across the eight precincts. Most seats carry three-year terms, but there are vacancies for one-year special election seats in Precincts 1, 5, and 8 due to resignations or members switching precincts.

“People can just go and informally chat with those who are running,” Lee explained.

This will be followed by a debate from 7:30-8:30 p.m. with all four Select Board candidates participating.

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Questions for candidates were solicited from Winchester voters and organizations, with repeated interest expressed regarding issues like civil discourse and zoning regulations near the MBTA commuter rail station.

“We solicited questions from the voters in town,” said Lee. “And we got quite a good response for a debate. There were a number of questions that came up repeatedly. So clearly, there's interest in those issues.”

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On March 14, there will again be a chance to informally meet Tow Meeting candidates from 6:30-7 p.m. Then from 7-7:30 p.m., the two

candidates for Winchester Housing Authority will debate.

“I would say it is rare for there to be a contested race for housing authority,” said League member Susan Verdicchio, who has previously served on both the Select Board and School Committee.

Finally, from 7:30-8:30 p.m., five candidates running for two open seats on the School Committee will participate in a debate. All School Committee seats carry three-year terms.

The forums aim to help voters make informed choices on candidates and major issues, according to the League.

“Basically, we want voters to be informed and know who and what they’re voting for,” Lee said.

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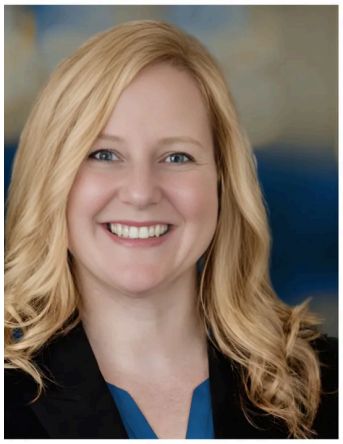

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backgrounds to Thursday forum

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affordability bill

The following was submitted by the Office of Rep. Michael S. Day: Rep. Michael S. Day and his colleagues in the House of Representatives recently passed energy affordability legislation that would result in over $9 billion in savings for utility ratepayers over the next 10 years. The bill maintains critical

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NEWS

Winchester gun owners face new training rules starting April 2

Public safety data How Winchester compares on firearms licenses in comparable Massachusetts communities Active licenses as of Jan. 25, 2025 — Source: Massachusetts Criminal History Systems Board License to carry firearms Firearms identification card Winchester and Marblehead are the focus communities. Peers selected based on comparable population size, demographics and suburban

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NEWS

Sen. Jason Lewis, Mass. Senate strengthen fair housing protections for renters, buyers

The following was submitted by the Office of Sen. Jason Lewis: State Sen. Jason Lewis joined his colleagues in the Massachusetts Senate to pass legislation that protects residents from discrimination in the housing market as the Trump administration abandons its enforcement of the federal Fair Housing Act. Illegal discrimination continues

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EVENTS

Celebrate Women's History Month with Girls Leading Change

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: To mark Women's History Month and International Women's Day in 2026, the Network for Social Justice is collaborating with club leaders from Winchester High School and members of the Community Health team from La Colaborativa in Chelsea and

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NEWS

Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

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FEATURES

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By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester

EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents 'Syldason: You Are Welcome Here'

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On

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High School presents “Chicago: Teen Edition,” a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. This iconic production is set in the 1920s. Performances will take place on March 13 and 14

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
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Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

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